

# gay community news

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The Gay Weekly

35¢

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GET YOUR  
LAWS  
OFF MY  
BODY!

GAY  
RIGHTS  
NOW

SEPARATE  
CHURCH  
and  
STATE!  
λ G.A.A.

Photo by Betty E. Lane





## First Gay Bill to Ever Pass Senate

# Mass. Bill Passes First Senate Reading

By David Brill

BOSTON — Weeks of assiduous lobbying paid off last week in the Massachusetts Senate as H.3676, a bill banning discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in public employment, obtained initial approval. The final vote showed 21 senators in support of the measure with 16 opposed. This marks the first time that a gay rights bill has cleared the Massachusetts Senate. The legislation is expected to have considerably less difficulty in passing the House, where House Speaker Thomas W. McGee has vowed a strong effort on behalf of gay rights.

If the bill passes both branches of the legislature and is signed into law by Governor Michael Dukakis, as the governor has promised, Massachusetts will become the first state in the nation to enact a gay civil rights law.

Living up to his reputation as a master of parliamentary chicanery, Sen. David Locke (R-Wellesley), one of the bill's opponents, made a motion for the Senate to reconsider its vote. That motion will be the first order of business when the Senate reconvenes on Monday, June 6. Gay Legislation has asked all members of the community to contact their senators (the main telephone for the State House is 617-721-2121) to ask them to vote against reconsideration.

Debate on the bill began when a motion by Sen. Locke to table [kill] the bill was on the floor. Locke argued that there were many types of employment "where it might be endangering, especially to children, to submit them to homosexuals." Locke included teachers, hospital orderlies, therapists, and nurses in this category. "Defenseless youngsters or retarded children would become the victim of attack by an acknowledged homosexual." (The

bill would protect all public employees, including workers in state hospitals and prisons.) "If this bill passes, a good-looking young man will come in wearing a dress and you'll have to hire him," said Locke.

Sen. Robert A. Hall (R-Fitchburg), veteran gay rights supporter and sponsor of the bill, rose to rebut Locke. "Is the senator in favor of heterosexual child molesters? All these bills ask is that we judge individuals by the way they do a job, and not on their private life." Hall added that if gay people were denied jobs due to discrimination, then they would be forced to go on welfare or unemployment, two areas whose budgets were unacceptably high already.

Sen. Chester G. Atkins (D-Harvard), floor sponsor of the bill, rose to call Locke "as usual, a cornucopia of misinformation." Citing the 1975 change in policy promulgated by the U.S. Civil Service Commission for federal employees, Atkins called the bill a "relatively simple, well-defined piece of legislation."

"Have we lost our moorings morally?" asked Sen. John F. Parker (R-Taunton). Parker asked whether any member of the Senate had any known homosexuals working for him, and quoted *Newsweek* columnist George Will in describing the gay rights



Sen. Chester G. Atkins (D-Harvard), who carried the bill.

legislation as part of "the moral disarmament." Reading from a list of gay rights supporters (which included President Carter, Gov. Dukakis, and the two U.S. Senators from Massachusetts), Parker said, "We know about the rights of these people. What about the rights of the average citizen who doesn't want to work with these people? This bill is opening the door

for all kinds of things — we should stop it while we can."

The roll call on Locke's motion was taken, and it was defeated by a vote of 15-22, a strong showing that gratified Gay Legislation lobbyists, who had spent an enormous amount of energy in preparation for the Senate vote, which was expected to be much closer.

The bill itself was then on the floor. Locke persisted in his argument, stating, "Homosexuality is contrary to the order of nature. Unless we put the brakes on, this cancer is going to spread. . . . Pass this bill and you will outrage thousands of decent citizens."

Atkins responded, "It seems that when state government, the federal government, and the federal courts are going against you [Locke], you then clutch for the laws of nature." Then turning to Locke's charge of contamination, Atkins noted that "one of these people is in the House" and that "not one of the other 239 legislators has caught it from her [Rep. Elaine Noble]". Atkins denied that half the legislative staff would "show up in drag" if the bill became law, adding that many gay people "are among the most talented in society."

Sen. Francis X. McCann (D-Cambridge) then got into a ten-minute-long argument with Atkins on the question of whether the legislation would apply to firefighters, who are covered under Civil Service regulations. Atkins said that it would do so, but noted that if a person's sexual preference interfered with the performance of his work, then the matter could still be dealt with.

Sen. Parker argued, "It's taken millions of years to establish this civilization. The natural law is the only law that keeps us together," and said that passing the bill would repeal the

(Continued on page 6)

## AS WE GO TO PRESS . . .

GCN has learned that a coalition of conservative groups has been formed to try to overturn passage of the Gay Rights bill. Gay Legislation urges all gay people throughout Massachusetts to call their senators and urge them to support the bill.

## NY Fire Dept., Gays to Check Bars, Baths

# After the Everard Fire: City Probe, Blood Drive

By Jim Marko

NEW YORK, NY — The tragic fire that left 9 dead and 10 injured at New York City's Everard Baths last week has brought the gay community and that city's Fire Department together. Rev. Gil Lincoln of the Metropolitan Community Church in New York tells GCN that various groups in the city and Fire Commissioner John O'Hagen's office have agreed to join in a mutual inspection of other baths. "The inspections," says Lincoln, "will be done in a non-harassing way" and are aimed at stopping fire violations. Lincoln says that the MCC is concerned that non-gay owned baths in New York are, "for the most part," unsafe and laws against fire violations "are often not enforced." The non-enforcement, adds Lincoln, "shows a lack of concern for the gay community."

The fire that hit the Everard early on the morning of May 25 caught the scores of men inside the run-down building by surprise. A spokesperson for Fire Commissioner O'Hagen told GCN that the blaze could have been avoided "if the sprinkler system had been turned on as ordered." Irving



Fine, the owner of the building, could face criminal charges if the continuing investigation of the tragedy proves negligence on his part. The Commissioner's office says the sprinkler system had been installed, but had not yet been put into operation. Authorities are still sifting through the debris at the Everard and say that the probe could take months.

The dead have been identified but

the Fire Commissioner's office says that "people are reticent" to call and let officials know if they are missing a family member. "This is making it difficult," added O'Hagen's spokesperson, "because we just really don't know if there is a possibility of finding other bodies."

There are 3 men still in the hospital. They have been identified as Phillip Osbaum of Los Angeles, Earl Hunt of Long Island City, New York, and Alexander Mamon, address unknown. Osbaum and Mamon remain in intensive care and part of the cost of their hospitalization will be paid for by money collected by New York's MCC. According to Rev. Gil Lincoln of the church, nearly \$3,000 has been collected in the gay community. "The response," says Lincoln, "has been beautiful." The money will be used not only for hospital expenses but will also pay for the burial of one of the deceased.

Rev. Lincoln also is asking any eyewitness to the tragedy to get in touch with him. He says that the office of the Fire Commissioner will accept written statements from him concerning the events at the Everard. "Any-

body who was in or near the Baths should get in touch with me," says Lincoln. "Whatever information they have can be given to me with the knowledge that a person's name will be withheld."

Lincoln also makes a point of assuring the gay community that the efforts by the MCC in New York are being undertaken for the community, not for the church. "I want to assure people that we are handling this tragedy because nobody else has come forward," says the Reverend. "We want to take this momentum and translate it into a constructive and full gay community activity. We want every gay person to join in this effort to make us a people, not just a rabble." Donations to the fire fund should be sent to the MCC-Fire Fund, 201 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011.

Three Boston men died in the fire at the Everard. They have been identified as Jimmy Stuard (age 30), Brian Duffey (30), and Patrick Nott (27). The others killed in the tragedy have been identified as Hillman Adams (40), Alamo Armondo (17), Joseph Synonec (30), Kenneth Hill (38), Ira Landau (32), and Anthony Clarco (25).



# news notes

## PAIN IN MAINE

AUGUSTA, ME — The Maine State Senate has rejected that state's first gay rights bill. The bill, which would have banned discrimination against homosexuals in housing, employment, and public accommodations, was defeated by a 21-10 vote. One legislator stated that if the bill passed, he and his family would move to Florida.

## MINNESOTA DEFEAT

MINNEAPOLIS — Optimism has turned to disappointment for supporters of the gay rights bill that is before the Minnesota state legislature. Passage of the measure, once considered likely, was all but halted by an onslaught of callers opposed to the bill. "It's the same thing that's been happening everywhere," said openly gay State Senator Allen Spear. The entire Minnesota State Senate, meeting as a committee of the whole, voted 32 to 27 for a gay rights measure in early May. The next day, Catholics and conservative Lutherans flooded the capital with anti-gay calls and the support for the measure quickly and significantly eroded. According to Spear, "It frankly doesn't look like the situation is going to improve."

## SCOTTISH STAMP OF APPROVAL

WESTMINSTER, UK — In a vote of overwhelming majority, the House of Lords in Great Britain has voted in favor of reforming anti-gay laws in Scotland. The vote, 125 to 27, came on a bill that will bring Scottish law into line with English law making homosexuality legal between consenting adults in private. The action is still only a minor step in what is a long process. The bill must pass through the House of Lords (this first vote does not guarantee that) and then pass through the House of Commons before it finally reaches the Statute Books, thus becoming law. Supporters of the measure say the battle for final passage will be a long and bitter one.

## IS RAPE NORMAL?

MADISON, WI — Last week, a County Court judge here ruled that a 15-year-old boy was reacting "normally" when he raped a girl in a stairwell at West High School. Citing prevalent sexual permissiveness and women's provocative clothing as the cause of rape, Judge Archie Simonson deferred punishment for the boy. Instead, he ordered the boy to stay at home under court supervision rather than being placed in an institution or other rehabilitation center.

"This community is well known to be sexually permissive. Should we punish a 15- or 16-year-old boy who reacts to it normally?" he asked.

Criticism of the court decision came from varied parts of the community, including the office of the District Attorney.

"This is probably the most serious crime in the history of the Madison public schools," Assistant District Attorney Meryl Manhardt said. "We're talking about a personal assault on a 16-year-old girl."

Judge Simonson ordered the youth to continue treatment through a youth program and to study at home with a public school teacher until he was readmitted to school.

## ALTERNATIVE MARCH

NEW YORK — The Gay Post is offering a week of alternative activities to the official New York Gay Pride activities, culminating in the Fifth Avenue Gay Walk for Freedom on Sunday, June 26. Other activities include a three-day vigil at City Hall, starting on Monday, June 20, and a mass demonstration at the National Gay Task Force headquarters. NGTF will be accused of "selling out" the Gay Liberation struggle at the June 23 demonstration.

Those interested in the Gay Walk should gather at Sheridan Square Park on Sunday, June 26, at 11:30 a.m.

## IN JIMMY STUARD'S MEMORY

BOSTON — Patrons of the Regency Baths have raised \$170 in the memory of the popular disc jockey Jimmy Stuard. Stuard, who worked at Boston's 1270 and New York's 12 West, was one of the victims of last week's fire at the Everard Baths in New York. The money raised was donated to the Boston Advocates for Human Rights, the organization that is supporting the Florida gay rights effort.



Photo by Betty Lane

## BELLA MAKES IT OFFICIAL

NEW YORK, NY — Former Rep. Bella S. Abzug announced her candidacy last Wednesday for the Democratic nomination for mayor of New York. Abzug's decision came as a surprise to virtually no one and she is expected to share gay support in the race with Rep. Edward Koch, who is also a mayoral contender. Koch is this year's prime co-sponsor of the national gay rights bill, while Abzug attempted to guide the bill towards passage during her tenure in the House.

The flamboyant Abzug, who was narrowly defeated in her bid for the Democratic nomination for the US Senate last year, is now believed to provide the major primary opposition to Mayor Abraham Beame. Beame, who is seeking a second term, is also opposed by New York Secretary of State Mario Cuomo, Rep. Herman Badillo, Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, and Rep. Koch.

## FREE IN IOWA

IOWA CITY — This city has become the 40th municipality in the country to pass a gay rights measure. By a vote of 4 to 3, the Iowa City Council voted to ban discrimination against gay people. The long-debated bill was voted upon at a meeting without discussion or debate by the Council members. The ordinance covers the areas of employment and public accommodations and also includes a ban on discrimination based on marital status. An attempt to include housing discrimination in the Iowa City measure failed.

## GOV'T \$ FOR LESBIANS

CINCINNATI, O — The Lesbian Activist Bureau, Inc., headquartered here, has been awarded a \$295 scholarship by the Ohio Department of Economic and Community Development. This is the first time that a gay organization has received such recognition from a state department in Ohio. The scholarship is to assist LAB Director Sandie Garsey in attending a week-long training seminar to be held at the end of June. The training teaches skills in financial development and securing funding sources. The Lesbian Activist Bureau is a non-profit corporation which works to educate the public on homosexual issues and provides assistance to lesbian women who find their rights denied or abridged.

## PRESBYTERIANS RESIST

NEW YORK CITY — There is major opposition in the United Presbyterian Church to the acceptance of homosexuals as pastors. A new study shows that 90% of the church members and 96% of pastors questioned said they believe their congregations would "never" or "probably not" accept a practicing homosexual as pastor, associate, or assistant pastor, even though that person might otherwise be qualified. The questionnaire, mailed out in January, also shows that 80% of the members of the United Presbyterian Church and 73% of the pastors believe homosexual activities are not "normal and consistent with God's order." The study is designed to help the task force named by the 1976 General Assembly of the Church to study "Christian approaches to homosexuality."

## GAY MEN'S CENTRE NEWS

BOSTON — The Gay Men's Centre continues to settle in at its new home at 718 Beacon Street, near Kenmore Square. Starting this month the Centre will feature an "After Hours Coffee House" on Friday and Saturday night at which time the Centre will be open until approximately 4 a.m.

Meanwhile the Centre emphasizes that although on Wednesday night there is a so-called "Closed Rap Group," this does not mean that the Centre is closed. There is enough space in separate rooms for other drop-in activities.

On June 7 the usual monthly First Tuesday Meeting with a pot-luck supper will welcome representatives from all gay organizations to report on their plans and programs.

On June 12 the Centre welcomes all members and friends to a General Meeting at 3:00 p.m. with a pot-luck supper.

June's very special event will be a "Welcome The Rhino" disco dance on the eleventh, by which time the lavender rhino will have been transported from the GCN office to the Men's Centre.

A picnic is scheduled for the 19th of June on the banks of the Charles River near the Harvard Business School or, in case of rain, at the Centre.

The Centre will be represented on June 14th on WBUR's "Gay Way" program (8:00-9:30 p.m.) with a review of the Centre's history and plans for the future.

## ANN WELD, DEMOCRAT

PROVINCETOWN — Gay-activist and feminist Ann Weld-Harrington, the Civil Defense Director for the town of Provincetown, has been elected to that community's Democratic Town Committee. The election fills one of three vacancies on the committee; the other two vacancies were filled by John Downey and Health Associates Doctor Frank Zampello. Both Zampello and Weld-Harrington were on the coordinating committee for the 1975 New England Gay Conference.

## GAY PRIDE '77

BOSTON — Gay Pride '77 met last Tuesday to work on plans for the upcoming activities. There were few new issues to be settled and the meeting went smoothly. It was decided that a lesbian contingent would be the first organized group of marchers in the parade after the banner which is to be carried by all sorts of gay people. Other groups would be randomly assigned places in the line of march with floats and motor vehicles bringing up the end.

Plans for the other activities are going on smoothly, but input is still needed from other community groups. Also, there is a need for marshalls for the parade and people to provide child care during Gay Pride Week. The next meeting of the planning committee will be at the Charles Street Meeting-house, on Monday, June 6 at 7:30. Groups wishing to enter floats or vehicles are reminded to make reservations in advance; all groups planning to march together are encouraged to notify the parade committee as soon as possible. Letters may be sent to the committee at GCN, Box 761.



# Miami Goes to Polls: Voter Turnout Seen as Key

MIAMI, FL — On Tuesday, June 7, the 700,000 registered voters of Dade County are being asked to vote "yes" or "no" on the repeal of the county's gay rights ordinance. Both the Dade County Coalition and Anita Bryant's Save Our Children have saturated the Miami area with radio and television announcements as well as full page advertisements in area newspapers. Clint Réilly of the Coalition said the outcome of the vote "is a toss-up now, a question of who's going to vote." The latest polls taken by Louis Harris showed that of those people voting, the majority will vote against repeal. Due to the wording of the referendum, a vote against repeal is a vote for gay rights. The Dade County Coalition, with donations in hand of over \$250,000, has organized car pools that will take voters to the polling places.

Tim Baer at the Save Our Children offices in Miami told GCN that car pools are also being used by his group. Baer said "the objective is to get as many people who would vote for repeal to vote." Bryant's forces expect

to win and gain repeal of the ordinance "because more people will vote with us," added Baer. When questioned about the Harris poll showing voter preference against repeal, Baer contended that his group "doesn't talk about that because those who live by the polls, die by the polls."

The vote in Dade County has had a nationwide impact. The issue has been covered by the television networks and was the subject of a *Newsweek* cover story. A debate on the gay rights bill before the Massachusetts state legislature discussed the Dade County issue (see story P. 1) as did related issues before the Florida House. That body last week approved bills outlawing marriages by persons of the same sex and barring homosexuals from adopting children. The Florida House vote was 101 to 11 to require that marriage licenses be issued only to opposite sex couples. The bill forbidding adoption of children by homosexuals was approved by a 98 to 15 vote. Both measures are now before the Florida Senate.



Bob Kunst (left) and Alan Rockway (right) of Miami's Transperience Center as they appeared at a recent Florida support rally in Washington. Kunst and Rockway have taken leading roles in the Dade County rights fight, although they have not been associated with the Dade County Gay Coalition.

Photo by Bettye Lane

## Judge Gesell Upholds Navy's Anti-Gay Policy



Vernon "Copy" Berg (right) and his lover E. Lawrence Gibson. Gibson was fired from his job as a civilian instructor of English for the Navy at the same time that Berg was ousted.

Photo by Bettye Lane

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Navy's policy of discharging homosexuals as "military liabilities in a military organization" was upheld last week in a ruling issued by Federal District Judge Gerhard Gesell. Gesell dismissed the suit for re-instatement in the Navy brought by former Ensign Vernon Berg 3d, saying that Berg's dismissal "due to his homosexual activity places no restrictions on his right to associate with whomever he chooses, and clearly does not contravene the First Amendment."

After admitting being gay to his commanding officer in 1975, Vernon Berg was discharged from the Navy under less than honorable conditions. W. Graham Claytor, the new Secretary of the Navy, last month upgraded Berg's discharge to honorable after a review. At the time of the upgrading, the Navy said it would review all such cases on an individual basis but would not change its policies against homosexuals in the service.

Vernon Berg, who now lives in New York City, told GCN that the latest court ruling is a denial of "my right to a Constitutional due process hearing."

"If that right is denied," he said, "then I really have no rights at all." Berg, whose case is being handled by E. Carrington Boggan of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, said the Gesell ruling would be appealed. Although disappointed, the former Ensign added that this latest decision in his fight for re-instatement and back pay, put him "on a better level than I have ever been before." Characterizing the action as "not a real step backward," Berg contended that it would be easier to fight the Navy over the question of whether or not being gay is a military liability. "Now that the judge has decided that the discharge was based on how others might react to me as a gay officer," said Berg, "the case is now on a new level."

In his opinion, Judge Gesell urged the Navy to clarify its policies on homosexuals in the service. "In the final analysis, there is an obligation to accommodate personnel policy to changing scientific knowledge and social standards to the fullest extent so long as conduct which threatens to interfere with defense objectives can be avoided," Gesell wrote.

## 2 Arrested at 'Bird Sanctuary'

CAMBRIDGE, MA — A 27-year-old Medford man and a 42-year-old Boston man were arrested on Sunday, May 29, by Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) police at the Cambridge Bird Sanctuary and charged with unnatural acts and open and gross lewdness. Each man was arraigned in East Cambridge District Court and had his case continued until July 25.

The Cambridge Bird Sanctuary, which is opposite the Browne and Nichols School, had also been the site of considerable attention last year by MDC police. Despite a meeting between officials of the Cambridge Gay Political Caucus and Rep. Barney Frank with MDC Commissioner John Snedeker last year, the arrests have persisted. MDC sources attribute the impetus for the police involvement to the Browne and Nichols School,

although the school is not in session during the summer.

Arrests at the Bird Sanctuary have consistently been described to GCN as extremely unprofessional in manner. The arresting officer in most cases, Off. Gilbert Quinn, has reportedly entered the shrubbery with his gun raised and his finger on the trigger, threatening to shoot men in the bushes if they did not come out. The men arrested on May 29 reported that Quinn put the loaded guns to their heads after they emerged.

Officer Quinn's reputation for being "gun happy" was given additional credence when Quinn shot a 27-year-old Acton man in the leg in Boston's Back Bay on Wednesday night. The man had been stopped for speeding and had begun to run to avoid capture when Quinn shot at him.

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# community voice

## pure fiction

Dear GCN,  
Someone should put Linda Lachman on a soap box in an open field where she can play apologist for all the bad politicians she wants.  
Actually, though, we in the Back Bay were glad to hear that Ms. Noble turned down the federal job to be a full-time legislator. The problem is — we haven't seen her for three years anyway!  
Thanks, GCN, for a great paper. But if you have any sense you'll put any further Lachman letters in another medium. They're pure fiction and have no place in a newspaper.  
Yours truly,  
Edward Mitchell

## no show horse needed

Dear GCN:  
Harken! From Allston, Mass., comes the voice of a woman telling gays to "stay out of a race where you aren't registered and let the constituents who are there decide . . ." Aside from some factual errors (which throw Linda Lachman's entire letter's credibility into question) like the salary of a legislator (\$14,500 not \$12,500), or where Gen. Singlaub was stationed (Korea, not South America), I think Ms. Lachman's letter deserves more response.  
Yes, Rep. Noble is indeed "rude, grating, and thoughtless," and unapologetically so. She is unquestionably "aggressive," but I don't know if "powerful" is accurate. After all, powerful

people are influential. So far, after reading GCN for nearly two years, I have seen Noble be "optimistic" about, in order, Birch Bayh's candidacy, Charter Reform for Boston, saving her seat from redistricting (as far back as December she claimed to be "confident" about it), and passing the Consenting Adults Bill (which she insisted would pass, but look what happened!).  
We in the Back Bay want a representative, a work-horse, not a show horse. We don't want to be represented by an enemy-maker, nor do we want to be represented by someone who scores ZERO on issues like Legislative Ethics (which Ms. Noble scored last month, according to my CPPAX Newsletter). The possibility of losing Barney Frank to her does indeed threaten more than the straight male population. It threatens all of our neighborhood, gay and straight.

It is Ms. Lachman's political naivete which I find pathetic. The rest of the country's gays will not consider Bostonians to be "immature and petty" if they select the better candidate, regardless of sexual preference. (Why, last year at this time, Ms. Noble wrote a letter to these pages explaining why she supported Mr. Agnos over Mr. Milk in San Francisco, for that very reason!) And the reaction from the local straight community will be one of anger — anger at a woman who has refused to accept political reality.

And finally, I already have enough pity for Ms. Noble. But it appears that so long as she can count on the blind support and advice of those like Ms. Lachman, neither pity nor derision will prevent her from committing political suicide, or from actual murder — the killing of the reputation of gay people in Boston.

Sincerely and Gay Rage,  
Anne Cardillo  
Boston, Mass.



## misrepresented

Dear GCN,  
In your letters column (GCN #48) Nat Foote joins ranks with *Advocate* Associate Editor Sasha Gregory-Lewis to defend *Advocate* publisher David Goodstein; that is very nice, except he took the occasion to say some things about me which are just not true.

He links me to demonstrations against New York's Gay Human Rights Commissioner, Bob Livingston and the West Side Discussion Group. I had no part in either event. Furthermore, Mr. Foote "accuses" me of being connected to one of the groups which sponsored these protests (the Gay Activists Alliance or the Gay Post). For the record: I was once affiliated with GAA but have not been a member of that group for some three years and I have never been associated with the Gay Post. Finally, Mr. Foote charges that my disagreements with Mr. Goodstein are based on "personal dislikes." One need only read my original letter to GCN to see spelled-out in black-and-white concrete political reasons why I consider David Goodstein to be "The Idi Amin of the Gay Movement."

Political differences can be very healthy for any movement, but misinformation and divisiveness can only destroy a worthy cause like Gay Liberation. I have always striven to act in the best interests of the Gay Liberation Movement and must therefore take exception to Mr. Foote's misrepresentations. Hoping to have clarified any misconceptions that might have resulted, I remain, in Gay Liberation,

Morty Manford

## fine seabrook

Dear GCN,  
Dave Drolet's article entitled "A Gay Clam at the Seabrook Nuclear Plant Occupation" in the May 28 issue really turned me on. It was light yet significant, it was perceptive, compassionate, restrained. I would like to thank him for it through your letters column and I do. If I could do so directly I would.

Sincerely,  
Richard Connolly

## gay-feminist unity

Dear GCN,  
Women's news is our news contrary to the 'no women's news' letter to GCN, May 28, 1977.  
Women and gays are oppressed by straight society. Both groups are striving for a non-sexist society where people can grow free of roles — where people can do what they want to do, live the way they want to live and love the way they want to love.

Society is geared towards man's domination over women. Straight society's power is threatened by women achieving equal status, a man loving a man, or a woman loving a woman (whether the gay relationship is dominant-submissive or equal, society certainly is threatened because man has lost his dominant position). The power of the penis (which can be seen in straight society from rape to the pointed steeples of churches) is abolished in gay relationships (a gay couple both have or don't have a penis — who then dominates?) and needs to be abolished for women to have equal status with men.

Can't we see that gay people and women are being persecuted by straight society? There is no place in straight society for women or gay people.

We should all be feminists.  
In Unity there is strength.

Love, Joel

# speaking out

## Giving Blood

By Anonymous

On Wednesday morning someone at the office mentioned that there had been a terrible fire on West 28th Street [New York City], "in a flophouse," she said. But I didn't think much about it until I got home that evening, turned on the TV news and discovered that it had been at the Everard Baths, that nine or more men were dead, many more injured. I had never been to the Everard myself, but I had friends who went regularly. The news coverage nauseated me. The camera kept returning to a pipe in the wall in the front of the building where the management of the baths had begun to install a sprinkler system. If the sprinkler system had been operating, in all probability lives would have been saved. Red tape in the buildings department had held it up, though there was an order for the system to be in by July 1.

That evening I learned that the Institute for Human Identity and others were asking for blood donors, so the next day I went down to Bellevue Hospital after work. I walked through the large complex for what seemed like blocks before I found the blood bank.

There was a small waiting room where half a dozen people sat in various stages of nervous anticipation. We filled out forms and signed our consent, had our temperatures and blood pressures taken. There were some young men in street clothes there to guide us through all this. Someone asked how many donors had come for the Everard victims and one of the men replied that the count was 180 as of 1 p.m., so it must be up to some 250 by now. He said he was a volunteer for the National Gay Task Force. All of us in the waiting room seemed to be gay and we were all interested in what he had to say.

A priest came in and out and one of the volunteers commented to another that it was impossible to visit the victims upstairs unless you "wore a collar" or knew one of the victims' names. (I wondered how many names of the dead were known by now.)

The man next to me confessed that he usually fainted when he gave blood. He was a tall man with long hair. He looked pale already. We all smiled at each other

rather uneasily. There was an older man with long white hair and a beard who had his face buried in a newspaper; a woman in workshirt and jeans who was so thin she looked as if she could spare little blood; another woman dressed in a black dress with a white collar who had come directly from work, too; a tall man with a deep tan who was evidently coming back for his second time. The volunteers joked with us and each other. They seemed high on the long hours they had logged.

Everyone was warm and friendly, part of an unacknowledged, common enterprise. Not like New York. An island in New York. In spite of the many meetings I had attended, symposia, gay groups I had belonged to, I had never felt this sense of community here. There was the fact, not statistically surprising, perhaps, but surprising to me, that some 250 people had come to give blood for strangers who happened to be gay because we happened to be gay, too. That sympathetic bond was being manifested in a blood bond. The idea was usually reserved for family; it was a novel idea to me. I had never given blood before and I knew that our blood was going into the blood bank proper, might never go into the veins of the men upstairs. But it was as if our blood was flowing out to them and into them, wishing them well. It was no longer the obligation or the desire to do good. There was that bond, almost tangible.

The man with the long hair did faint. But smelling salts brought him around and he smiled wryly. The woman lying next to me in the donors' room, who had announced she fainted regularly, did not. I felt a little light-headed, but I was interested in the sensation of the blood surging out of my arm, through the tube, and into the plastic bag. I *thought* I could feel it surging at times. The volunteers gave us some fruit juice and comforting pats, had us sit up when it was over, to see how steady we were, then gave us instructions about smoking and drinking, told us to take it easy and sent us home.

My legs felt heavy as I walked back through the building. I thought of the men upstairs. How easy, how pleasant, it had been to give blood . . .

I couldn't get any closer to their suffering, however I might try. I could only wish them well, anonymously.



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### WARNING

Plainclothes police have been active in making arrests at the "Bird Sanctuary," the gay male cruising area located just off Memorial Drive in Cambridge. GCN urges gay men either to avoid the area entirely or to use extreme caution.

### NEWS WRITERS

GCN is looking for volunteer news writers, especially to write women's news. Anyone interested should call Neil at 426-4469.

Member: New England Press Association  
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COSMEP



# Investigating Bars and Baths for Safety

By Jim Davis

As a sometime patron of a bath-house and previously several very unsafe bars, and as an architectural designer/draftsman, I've been bothered for years at the often sub-standard fire and fire-exit conditions I've found at the business places that gay people can feel socially comfortable in. Today's news of the many deaths at the Everard Baths moves me to propose that the gay community take action along these lines:

whereas 1. Gay people are *not* assured of the same *minimum standards* of fire safety that heterosexuals have at social places (whether the reason is bribery, prejudice, lack of significant competition for the gay customer, whatever), and

whereas 2. *Means* of minimizing risk to life *do exist* in the form of detailed building codes and further building design practices which are known to (if applied) provide for *a) Minimum fire* starts (furnishings especially; *b) Earliest possible detection* (ionization-type); *c) Prompt* and complete *signalling* of people (including the handicapped), by new devices; *d) Adequate exit* paths/markings/safe stairs for the crowd served from any and all locations within the building, and

whereas 3. The preoccupation with social activities and occasional intoxication with drugs may tend to render the patrons more vulnerable to slowness of reactions to an un-signalled yet large fire in a structure with inadequate protections, thereby tending to increase the chances of panic, etc. (I believe the altered-state-of-mind consideration has long been recognized and responded to in fire code provisions applying to movie houses), and

whereas 4. Increasing numbers of people 'coming out' and sampling such a social institution/place for the first or second time may not have noticed the location of fire exits, or may not have noticed the lack of exits, sprinklers, etc., which later might influence a person to avoid a certain place,

and whereas 5. Many of these businesses have more than adequate resources which could be immediately applied to a comprehensive review of their buildings' abilities to resist fire and assure to a reasonable degree that all patrons would escape in the event of a fire there or in an adjoining space . . .

I am calling on concerned gay people to: *a)* Organize an independent study team to identify and eventually warn the public of the worst fire-traps patronized by gay people. At the end of an initial survey, we might announce the most dangerous premises in town, and the most safe, overall. To follow up, I believe we should distribute information about sub-standard places that have corrected their problems, and places that have worsened (exit doors which have been locked, sub-standard expansions, etc.) in a manner similar to the way in which a local TV station lists restaurants which have health/sanitation violations at the moment and those which have corrected problems. *b)* Care must be taken to avoid passing information about social institutions/places to the kinds of people who might tend to use it against gay people's freedom to congregate. *c)* Any study and public information work must be widely based enough so that all known places of business (probably in order of number of people contained at most crowded time) would be included, and the features and criteria studied should be clearly defined and evenly carried out, so that there would be no effect of favoritism towards one business over another, other than concerning fire safety.

Persons with time, probably a little time available over several months, to contribute — please drop me a message at 361 Washington Ave. (Apt. 5A), Brooklyn, N.Y. 11238. Particularly people with experience and/or education in areas of fire safety, building design, and drafting would be valuable to get this work done. Although I feel we should give businesses every opportunity to cooperate with this study, checking of features and drafting of layouts can certainly be done by simple observation and estimation of distances by foot, if owners don't cooperate.

In the immediate future, for us all, there are just a few things I feel we can demand of the largest most crowded establishments: Periodic demonstrations by the staff on request that the *exit doors* are unlocked (discos especially now that we know of disasters such as in France where hundreds died). And secondly, a complete explanation verbally *and* a handout sheet of floor maps for every person entering a bath-house, of where the fire-exit-paths and doors are for every area of these often maze-like places. We have the right to survive; but we may have to insist on it.

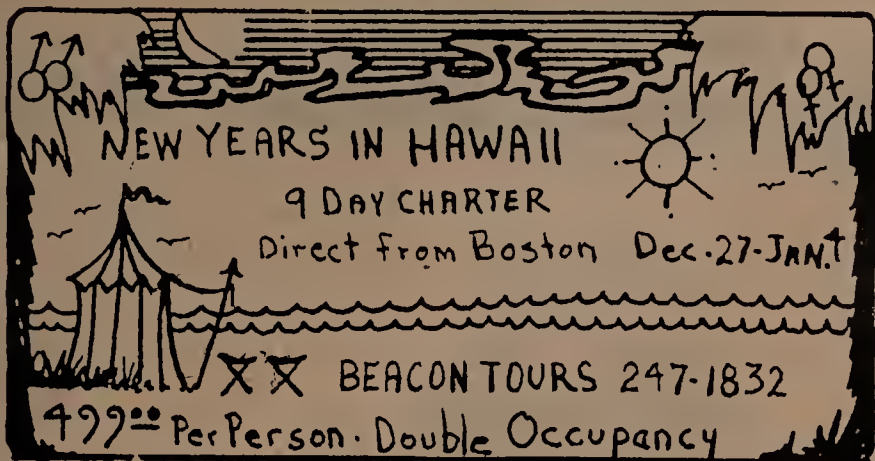
P.S.: A little help-yourself test for patrons of baths and discos and bars: The next time you go, remember to take a little notebook and pencil. Not to use while you're there, but *after*, on the bus or train or in your parked car, TRY THIS: Try to draw a complete diagram of the floor layout of where you just were, with all marked exits, alarm boxes (if any) and extinguishers (if any). If it's a many-level building, draw each floor one above the other, heavy lines around the fire stairs so you can see how they line up.

*NOW: If you remembered the entire layout and exits*, you can ask yourself would it be survivable if everyone were trying to exit.

*IF YOU DIDN'T REMEMBER ALL OF IT:* Take the notepad and diagram with you if you go there again, and during a lull in the socializing or whatever, take it out and *do it over*. Put an arrow next to each exit point, in the direction of escape. Now, ask yourself — do you think this place measures up?

Making these diagrams may seem overdoing it since you could simply observe, recall and observe again in your mind. But I think *many of us remember things much better after we've observed them well enough to draw*. A room can go from no sign of fire to a 1000° to 1500° blaze in actually a few minutes, if the fire gets going in another room and spreads toward you. If the time ever comes for you to remember this diagram, you might be under the stress of panic and/or intoxication and in a big hurry. Incidentally, for my own studies, I'd very much like to receive xeroxes of these little diagrams, incomplete/complete, at the above address.

("Speaking Out" is a column designed for the benefit of GCN readers. We encourage you to send your thoughts, ideas, feelings to Speaking Out, GCN, 22 Bromfield Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108. The opinions expressed in the "Speaking Out" column do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper or those of individual members of the GCN staff.)



## GAY LEGISLATION '77 IN MASSACHUSETTS NEEDS SUPPORT

### H.3677 General Discrimination

This bill would make discrimination in employment, housing, mortgages, bonding, credit, public accommodations and union membership on the basis of sexual orientation illegal.

### H.3676 Discrimination in Civil Service

More limited than H.3677, this bill would make discrimination in state civil service employment on the basis of sexual orientation illegal.

### What YOU Can Do: Write, Call & Visit

The most realistic way for most people to effect the vote of their legislators is to write them a personal letter. As many as six letters on any one issue is considered a landslide by most state legislators, so your letter does count.

Of critical importance is that people from all parts of the state write to their legislators and that the writers are informed on the issues.

To find out who your state legislators are: Each voter has one State Representative and one State Senator. To find out their names, first call your city or town clerk or elections commission and ask for the ward and precinct number for the address at which you are registered to vote (or if not yet registered in Massachusetts, at which you live). They may also be able to tell you who your legislators are. If not, call the Voter Information Phone (1-800-882-1649) toll free; in the Boston area call 357-5880 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., or the House Clerk (617-727-2356) from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

What to say: Refer to the bills by number plus short title and ask for a vote in favor and a reply to your letter. State your feelings honestly but don't get defensive or offensive. Be brief and concise. Many non-gay people are supporting this legislation, so your letter

of support will not identify your sexual orientation. Letters needn't be "professional," in fact, plain, honest letters are the best.

Address your letter to: The Hon. \_\_\_\_\_, State House, Boston, Ma. 02133. Begin the letter "Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_" or "Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_".

Get others to write. Most people will find this a simple yet effective way to show their support, whether they are gay or straight. A visit to your legislator is the ultimate in effectiveness. It is best to make an appointment. Those from outside the Boston area usually have an office in their districts. To reach your State Senator call (617) 727-2455; State Representative call (617) 727-2424.

### MONEY, VOLUNTEERS

The lobbying effort is expensive and we need money to support it. If you can contribute please make checks payable to "LEGISLATION" and forward to Legislation, P.O. Box 8841, J.F.K. Station, Boston, Ma. 02114. We also need volunteers.

If you are a member of a Gay Group pass this info. along to the group. And to as many people as possible.

### Important People to contact: Do you know anyone in the following towns?

If you know anyone in the following towns with the following Senators please contact them and have them contact their senator.

**Senator Boverini**—Lynn, Lynnfield, Marblehead, Nahant, Swampscott

**Senator Bulger**—Allston-Brighton, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Bay Village, South Boston, South End

**Senator Lewis**—Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, Dedham, and Westwood

**Senator Saltonstall**—Andover, Boxford, Danvers, Essex, Georgetown, Gloucester, Ipswich, Manchester, Newbury, Rockport, Rowley, Topsfield, North Reading, Reading, Hamilton, and Wenham

**Senator Wetmore**—Arling, Barre, Brookfield, Charlton, East Brookfield, Hardwick, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Spencer, Sturbridge, Templeton, Warren, West Brookfield, Winchendon, Franklin County, New Salem, Orange, Hampden County, Brimfield, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holland, Monson, Palmer, Wales, Wilbraham, Hampshire County, Belchertown, Ware.

### LEGISLATION COMMITTEE PHONES:

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# Gay Bill Passes Mass. Senate

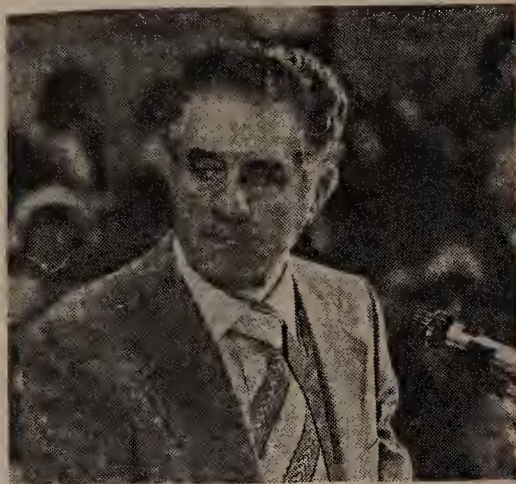
(Continued from page 1)

natural law. Parker compared the supportive position of Gov. Michael Dukakis on gay rights to that of Florida Gov. Reuben Askew, and begged the Senate to wait until after the June 7 referendum in Miami (which Parker predicted would produce an 8-1 defeat for gays) before passing H.3676. He then predicted that children and the mentally retarded would become the victims of homosexual rape in state hospitals if the bill passed.

Sen. Allan R. McKinnon (D-Weymouth) said in response that he had, as former head of the Commerce and Labor Committee, received letters in support of gay rights from the Massachusetts Council of Churches. "Do the Republicans have a direct pipeline to the Almighty or what?" asked McKinnon, who then compared anti-gay discrimination to the witch-burning in Salem during the 1600s.

The bill itself was then put to a vote, where it passed by a vote of 21-16. Sen. Walter J. Boverini (D-Lynn) was the only senator to have changed his vote (he voted against Locke's motion to table earlier in the afternoon), and it surprised Gay Legislation lobbyists. Boverini was the object of considerable pressure; he made verbal promises to Sen. Michael LoPresti (D-Boston) and Rep. Elaine Noble that he would back the measure. In addition, a letter writing and telephone campaign in his district organized with the assistance of Rep. James Smith (D-Lynn), CPPAX, and the office of U.S. Rep. Michael Harrington had reportedly resulted in an abundance of letters and calls.

However, the pro-gay side picked up two votes that they were not expecting: those of Sen. Anna P. Buckley (D-Brockton) and Sen. Robert D. Wetmore (D-Barre). Buckley has long been



Taunton State Senator John Parker.

considered "very nervous" about the issue of gay rights, and was not even persuaded by a personal telephone call by Atty. Gen. Francis X. Bellotti last year. Wetmore had voted in favor of gay rights as a member of the House two years ago, but only a week before the vote he had told other legislators he was "leaning against" the issue as a matter of politics. A letter-writing campaign in his district organized by gay activist Allen Young and the Our Daily Bread Food Co-op in Orange apparently had positive effect.

Atkins was the most persuasive supporter of the bill. He worked closely with Gay Legislation lobbyists and used all the effective tactics in debating the measure. He rated high praise for his assiduous work from Gay Legislation.

If there was a single disappointment in Wednesday's vote, it was the consistently anti-gay vote of Senate Majority Leader William M. Bulger (D-So. Boston), whose district includes the heavily gay Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and Fenway areas of Boston. Although

Bulger was reportedly stunned upon receiving more than 125 letters about the gay bills, he did not change his position on the issue. However, Bulger was presiding over the Senate during the debate, and Gay Legislation co-ordinator Joe Martin praised him for being very fair and accommodating. "He really could have hurt us," commented Martin.

THE FINAL VOTE (on H.3676) — YES: Sens. Chester G. Atkins (D-Harvard), John F. Aylmer (R-Barnstable), Anna Buckley (D-Brockton), Edward Burke (D-Framingham), Gerard D'Amico (D-Worcester), John Fitzpatrick (R-Stockbridge), Robert Hall (R-Fitchburg), James Kelly (D-Oxford), Michael LoPresti (D-E. Boston), Robert McCarthy (D-Bridgewater), Allan McKinnon (D-Weymouth), John Olver

(D-Amherst), Sharon Pollard (D-Methuen), Samuel Rotundi (D-Winchester), William Saltonstall (R-Manchester), Alan Sisitsky (D-Springfield), Joseph Timilty (D-Boston), and Robert Wetmore (D-Barre).

PAIRED YES: John A. Brennan (D-Malden) and Bill Owens (D-Roxbury).

NO: Roger Bernashe (D-Chicopee), William Bulger (D-Boston), Daniel Foley (D-Worcester), Mary Fonseca (D-Fall River), Arthur Lewis (D-Jamaica Plain), David Locke (R-Wellesley), Francis McCann (D-Cambridge), Denis McKenna (D-Somerville), John Parker (R-Taunton), Arthur Tobin (D-Quincy), B. Joseph Tully (D-Dracut), William Wall (D-Lawrence), Joseph B. Walsh (D-Dorchester), and Stanley Zarod (D-Springfield).

PAIRED NO: Walter Boverini (D-Lynn) and George Rogers (D-New Bedford).

NOT VOTING: Sen. Kevin Harrington (D-Salem), Senate president.



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# R.I. Sets Gay, Lesbian Pride Events

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A small but enthusiastic group met on May 23 in the offices of Rhode Island Gay Community Services at 55 Eddy St. here, to make final plans for that city's Gay Pride parade. The parade will be held on Saturday, June 25 (with the next day as a rain date). Assembly time is 1:30 p.m. in the municipal parking lot behind Union Station. The parade will step off at 2:00 p.m. The route is as follows: through the underpass to Dorrance, right at City Hall onto Washington, right again on Aborn, and return by way of Fountain Street to the Gaspee Street underpass and back to the parking lot.

All groups and individuals who support Gay Pride are invited and urged to take part in the parade. Placards will be available at the assembly point for any who wish to carry one. Giving a uniform tone to the parade are placards headed "Some of us are . . ." followed by the name of an occupation, etc., such as "students," "mothers," "Christians," "atheists."

No special activity is planned for after the parade. It is thought that many will want to join the festivities at

the Mayor's Summerfest on Kennedy Plaza for refreshments and perhaps some one-on-one educating.

For further information, call Providence's new Gay Help Line: (401) 751-3322, between 8:00 p.m. and midnight.

In addition to the Gay Pride Parade, Rhode Island lesbians have planned a series of activities for Lesbian Pride Week, June 19-26. The week of activities will include the following:

Sunday, June 19—2:00-softball clinic at Aldrich-Dexter field; 3:00-softball game; 6:00-picnic dinner; 7:30-workshop on *women & money*.

Monday, June 20—7:30-workshop on *lesbian feminism*.

Tuesday, June 21—7:30-workshop on *third world lesbians*.

Wednesday, June 22—7:30-workshop on *lesbian writing & publishing*; 9:00-poetry reading.

Thursday, June 23—7:30-workshop on *body images & sexuality*.

Friday, June 24—7:00-women & *alternative health care systems*; 9:00-women's concert.

Saturday, June 25—11:00-workshop on *lesbians & mothering*; 2:00-Gay

Pride March. Lesbian Contingent; 9:30-Women's Dance.

Sunday, June 26—2:00-softball clinic; 3:00-softball game; 6:00-potluck supper & evaluation of week.

Interested women should call Jo Ann at 861-0067. All Lesbian Pride workshops will take place at 73 Summit Avenue, home of the Basic Amazon Collective.

## Catholic Press Assoc.Rejects *Insight*

NEW YORK, NY — *Insight*, the magazine published by Dignity, the organization of gay Catholics, was refused membership in the Catholic Press Association. At its annual board of directors meeting, the Association said that the majority of the board felt that "the content of the publication does not meet the membership requirements of the CPA as set forth in its constitution and by-laws."

Gabriel Lanci, managing editor of *Insight*, said the staff was surprised by the board's decision. "We never heard of CPA's 'membership requirements'," Lanci said. "When we applied, no mention was made of 'constitution' or 'by-laws'." Lanci explained that the magazine originally expected its request for application in the Press Association to be denied or ignored.

Instead, *Insight* received an application form and a request for 15 copies of each issue published to be sent to the board members. Lanci added that after that event the staff did not know what to expect. "But now we do know. It's typical Church politics," he said. "Unfortunately it reflects heavily on an organization of men and women of the press as devious and very backward."

*Insight* is a gay quarterly magazine that is directed to the non-gay community in an effort "to make the gay experience understandable." The magazine has published such Roman Catholic proponents of gay rights as Brian McNaught, Father John McNeill, Tom Sweetin, and Paris Balducci.

## New Hampshire NOW Sets Up Lesbian Task Force

RYE, NH — Following the mandate of the New Hampshire National Organization of Women's Board Meeting, New Hampshire NOW has officially recognized a Lesbian Rights Task Force. According to Carolyn Markstead, temporary chair of the Task Force, the LRTF will "give concrete expression to National NOW's commitment to lesbian rights."

More specifically, the Task Force plans to co-sponsor legislation of concern to lesbians, increase communication between the feminist and gay

communities, and provide wider opportunities for consciousness-raising within N.H. NOW membership.

Another concern expressed by Markstead is lesbian visibility and input at the New Hampshire International Women's Year planning meeting. Projected strategy includes the presenting of a Lesbian Rights resolution, and the election of lesbians to the National IWY meeting at Houston this November.

In announcing the Task Force's recognition, Markstead emphasized

the importance of lesbian presence at the New Hampshire meeting, saying, "The International Women's Year committee will not address the issues confronting Lesbian Women unless we start that process."

Women interested in the IWY conference should contact Lambda at 603-456-3969, or Seacoast NOW, 4 Valentine Hill Dr., Durham, NH. For guaranteed overnight accommodations and childcare, registration must be in by June 1.

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By Eric Rogers

When I was in college I vowed that I would never pursue a career where I would have to hide my homosexuality. I decided that the first twenty-one years of my life had held enough deception and denial to last a lifetime and that graduation from college meant leaving the closet behind me. Therefore, when I was offered a teaching position in an elementary school two weeks after graduation, I was reluctant to accept it. After much soul-searching, weighing the good (a job!) with the bad (a closet . . .), I accepted the position of 6th Grade Teacher in an independent suburban school.

Part of my reason for accepting the job rested on the assumption that working with 11- or 12-year-old children my sexuality would not be important. After a year of working with these kids I realized that my assumption was incorrect. Throughout the year the subject of homosexuality has come up frequently in the classroom. My position, as a closeted gay teacher, has given me two valuable opportunities. I am able to guide the students to a more realistic, less reactionary attitude towards homosexuality. I am also able to give gay people an inside look at how this group of pre-teens views homosexuality. And while this privileged group of upper-middle-class kids certainly does not represent a cross-section of the American population, it serves as some indication of the changing attitudes towards homosexuality in young people.

I must say here that I do not feel good about remaining closeted in the school. The decision not to come out was a difficult one and was decided by two major factors — the legal system, which allows for teachers in my position to lose their jobs, and the fact that I was entering an unfamiliar, unsupportive environment which scared me. If I could come out and retain my job, I would do so. The school's reputation for "propriety and respect" made me think that they do not want their children taught by a gay person.

The first thing one must understand about sixth graders is that they are each at different points in their physical and emotional maturing process. Some of them reached puberty two years ago and some will not reach it for three or four years yet. This disparity causes a general sense of confusion and uncomfortableness around the issue of maturity in general and sexual maturity specifically. They spend a large amount of energy waiting for "it" (puberty) to happen to them, and once it does they are confused and often embarrassed about the changes that happen in their bodies. After living with pretty much the same kind of body and same kinds of feelings for twelve years, all of a sudden strange changes are going on. The confusion and awkwardness are reflected in the tittering that runs through the class whenever certain words are mentioned in reading out loud, like "breasts," "erect," or "gay."

During the third week of school the class was sitting in small groups of 5 or 6 reading books together. I was sitting quietly at my desk. All of a sudden, one of the groups broke into simultaneous hysterical laughter. They were laughing so hard they turned red in the face, and I arose from my desk and approached the group.

"What's so funny?" asked teacher.

All eyes turned the other way. More giggling. Finally, one brave soul raised her voice, "Mr. Rogers, do you know what the word 'gay' means?"

Stalling for time, I responded, "Read me the sentence, please."

She read, "The gay colors of the peasants' clothing made the festival a beautiful sight."

"Yes, Jennifer, 'gay' means bright, vivid, pretty blues, reds and

yellow."

Jennifer looked at me. Then she turned to her peers. "He doesn't know what it means! Mr. Rogers doesn't know what 'gay' means!" Then she looked me in the eye and in a serious tone similar to telling a youngster that babies don't really come from the stork, Jennifer let me in on the big secret. "It doesn't only mean that. It means something else too."

"Oh? And what's that?" teacher ignorantly asked.

There was no way anyone was going to tell me. All of a sudden it came to me: "Oh, you mean 'gay' like 'homosexual.' Men who are attracted to men and women who are attracted to women. I don't think that's what the author meant."

A stunned look came over the whole class (by now everyone was listening). I felt called upon to continue. "I don't think that gay people are anything for you to laugh at. You might not know any gay people but that's no reason for you to be afraid or prejudiced. It's something that's confusing and scary to you now, but when you're older hopefully you'll understand a lot better."

Now I have very ambivalent feelings about the way I handled this initial encounter with gay issues. On one hand I felt like I had been somewhat direct in my approach, and yet I did remain closeted and distant from the subject matter. Over the year, however, the class had become more adept at reading the word 'gay' out loud, for it seems that every writer of children's books uses the word at least two or three times in every chapter: children skip "gaily," spring is a "gay" season, and shirts are "gaily" colored. In the beginning there was lots of laughter, now there are only a few titters in the class.

One of the reasons these children are so uncomfortable with homosexuality is because some of them are at the age when they know they should start being interested in the "opposite sex." Boys are just beginning to attempt to assert a 12-year-old's brand of machismo over the girls. The boys are looking around at their peers to take the cues on exactly how close they should be with their "buddies" and how interested they should be in girls. Friendships at this age are often strained by this uncertainty. Friends have different expectations of the friendship, and if you're "too involved" with your friend you might be labeled as "gay." That's another thing

— the words "fag," "fairy," or "homo" are not usually used by these kids. The put-down is now "gay." And when a friendship is labeled as gay, the two friends must decide what to do about the situation.

Two of the boys in the class have this kind of friendship. They are both popular, intelligent, all-around boys and they are involved in a very intense, often irrational friendship. One of them, Sam, has shown an interest in girls. On the other hand, Jimmy has not. The boys spend all their time together, in and out of school, and share many of the same interests. They go to movies and sporting events together and sleep over each other's house. Every now and then they have passionate fights, which usually begin with a loss of trust, which brings about anger, fist fighting, and refusal to acknowledge each other's presence. When the fight ends they write notes to each other, pledge eternal loyalty, and forget about the past two days.

Sam and Jimmy's friendship is not unusual for twelve-year-olds. I have no way of knowing all the details of their relationship. One day, however, one of the boys in the class, perhaps motivated by jealousy, began calling them gay. The rest of the class joined in the taunting. As the chorus of "Gay! Gay! Gay!" escalated, Jimmy lost his temper and began swinging. Being the biggest boy in the class he easily stopped the taunts. It was at this point that I stepped in.

The discussion I had with the class was focused on friendship and the changing roles they were finding their friendships playing as they approached adolescence. We discussed physical expression of affection between friends and talked about holding hands and hugging and "messaging around." The class seemed fairly supportive of the physical side of friendships and only felt that limits were needed, especially in public. After this discussion I took Sam and Jimmy aside to discuss their friendship.

Sam was not threatened by being called gay. He was insistent that his friendship with Jimmy was their business and people should mind their own business. He also insisted that he was interested in girls and everyone knew that he and Jimmy had been friends for a long time. He was quite certain that there was nothing "queer" about his friendship and that he liked being with Jimmy and would do so regardless of what other people said. Jimmy was not as secure and sure of



# Kids Gay in the 6th



himself as Sam. He admitted that the public eye put some strain on their friendship and he wished people would "butt out." He also explained that there would be time enough for girls "when you grow up and get married," and that now was the time for studying and sports and friends. I tried to support their feelings on the importance of friendship and also their belief that they should be themselves despite their peers' teasing.

It is not uncommon for sixth graders to pair-off boy with boy and girl with girl, holding hands, or with arms around each other. What is interesting





# at 12: Issues h Grade



from play-fighting to hugging or tickling, they were uncertain how to react. The first time I chased Jack around the room tickling him, the class chanted, "Mr. Rogers is gay! Mr. Rogers is gay!" I was not threatened by this, much to my surprise, and I did not deny it. I did turn crimson, however.

Sex education class in March and April was the time the class really got into the nitty-gritty of sexuality. Much to my disappointment, the school administration, parents, and the kids insisted on having two groups for sex education — the boys and the girls. I taught the boys. This was a very difficult job for me because I knew that there were probably a few boys out there who would not be heterosexual, and I didn't want to give them the feeling that they were unusual or wrong. I made sure to include a lesson on homosexuality, and not mix it in with venereal disease and contraception, as a "touchy" issue that sixth graders don't have to know much about.

The day to teach "homosexuality" in sex ed was a beautiful, warm spring day, so we took off into the woods next to the school. There were fifteen 12-year-old boys, the gym teacher (who was "assisting" me), and me. After we sat down in a quiet part of the woods, I began by announcing the topic for the day: "Today we are going to talk about a subject that might make us all a little uncomfortable, but I feel it's important to talk about with you. The topic for today is homosexuality."

Sixteen sets of eyes hit the ground. No one said anything. All the giggling and wisecracks that came with discussing menstruation and wet dreams were gone. I had never seen the class so serious.

"Who can explain to us what 'homosexuality' is?" I asked.

No one would touch that question. Finally I began, "Homosexuality is when people of one sex are attracted to people of that same sex, like men being attracted to men and women being attracted to women." I was sweating like hell. "Most of what we talked about in this course was heterosexuality, people being attracted to the other sex. It's important for you to realize that not all people are like this. Some people like people of the same sex and it's important for you to know that these people are not sick, or strange, but are normal people like you or me."

A hand shot up. "Mr. Rogers, I heard about this tennis player who had a sex change operation. Isn't that what homosexuals are?"

"No, not necessarily, Colin. Those people are called transsexuals and that's very different from homosexuality." I went on to explain the difference.

Next question — "Well, once when my family was driving around Provincetown we saw these two men dressed like ladies crossing the street."

"Transvestites are people who like to dress in clothes of the opposite sex. Most transvestites are heterosexual and many are married and have families. This is also different from homosexuality."

Then one boy raised his hand. "My uncle is gay and he's just like anyone else except he has boyfriends instead of girlfriends. I don't know why everyone thinks it's so awful. I think people should stop being prejudiced."

I was very glad that Art was in the class. We then entered into a fifteen-minute discussion of gayness. What came out of the discussion were the attitudes of the boys. More than anything, they were curious to know "what causes it?" and they were disappointed that there was no simple answer. The kids' misconceptions were astounding, including one boy who had learned from Dr. Reuben's book that homosexuals are all miserable old men who frequent bathrooms. It was refreshing to hear Art refer to his uncle in contrast to all the stereotypes and fears the class held.

The girl's section of sex ed. never discussed gay issues and a few weeks later, during free time, two students, Mary and George, got into a big argument. Finally Mary rushed to my desk. "Aren't girls who are gay called 'lesbians'?" she asked.

I verified her information. She then launched into a long story that her sister had told her, about her favorite female vocalist who had "come out" the night before on a popular talk show. Mary described the scene in great detail and then finished up with, "I wanted to take all her albums outside and burn them!"

I questioned the logic behind this action. "Didn't the songs still sound nice, despite the person behind them?" Mary agreed that they did but insisted that she couldn't believe the songs anymore because they were all about men and she knew that the singer did not really like men.

Gradually, other members of the class caucused around my desk, until the entire class was involved in the discussion. Finally I sat everyone down and we had an hour long discussion about gay rights. While some of the class was disgusted by the subject, others felt that gay people should have their civil rights. One boy, who had obviously heard a great deal about Anita Bryant's campaign, made an interesting example: "You know, if Mr. Rogers was a homosexual they would have to fire him."

What pleased me about this comment was that it brought a reaction from the class of strong opposition to existing laws. If Mr. Rogers (who they assume is straight) could be fired for any reason, they would be angry. Their reactions against Anita Bryant were not very different from adult reactions, including some of their comments, such as "All she knows about is orange juice!"

I was very glad to have this discussion with the class. We had discussed racism and sexism, but I felt apprehensive about talking about gay issues. I resent, somewhat, not being able to share this aspect of my life with the class, but I understand why I have decided not to. Even though I insist to the class that I am not now "involved" with anyone, they insist on pairing me with every woman they know. Once when a close woman friend of mine came to a school function, and a boyfriend of mine came also, they didn't even notice the man, although I was quite attentive to him.

When I was in sixth grade I knew that I was "different." I remember sitting at my Bar Mitzvah and thinking "How could God let me do this? Doesn't he know I'm queer?" I didn't know the word "homosexual" and I certainly didn't listen to news media that mentioned the word. Kids today are growing up in a somewhat different world. The media frequently discuss gay issues and young people know what homosexuality is all about. But this does not mean that they are less threatened by it. They are still scared of not being "normal" or not falling into the All-American image of teenage Americans. But I am glad that they are able to discuss gay issues and learn that all gay people don't fit the stereotypes that the mass media project. I wish I could be one of the people to break the stereotypes for them.

I've signed a contract to teach next year. Part of my decision involved an incident that happened in March. The kids had always paired me with Mrs. Santos, an attractive divorcee who is the school librarian. Many of the boys had crushes on her and whenever they would catch me talking to her they would blush and run and tell the rest of the class. Most of the fathers would flirt with her also. I was delighted to walk into Somewhere one Wednesday night in March, after a faculty meeting, and find Mrs. Santos and her "girlfriend" unwinding on the dance floor. It's nice to know that I'm not alone at the school.





# Soap Opera Comes of Age

By Nancy Walker

Several issues ago I confessed that TV was one of my addictions. I have also made you privy to the fact that I am particularly hooked on "Days of Our Lives" (NBC weekdays 1:30-2:30 p.m.). My lover's obvious and oft-repeated displeasure at my viewing habits prompted me "to go on the wagon," so I did not watch "Days of Our Lives" for almost a month! I had gone "cold turkey" and not seen even one tiny episode or minutest segment until May 30, when I suggested, in a wee, mild voice, that maybe it wouldn't be so terrible if I just took a peek — to "catch up" on what was happening. I turned the set on somewhat after two, and, oh how the world had altered!

What I broke in on was a conversation between the two resident lady (I use that term advisedly and deliberately) shrinks who were discussing a *Lesbian* patient!! Unless you know the history of this soap, and indeed all classical soaps, you won't get the full, exquisite flavor of this turn of events. The point is that unlike the bit of medieval hogwash on "The Young and the Restless" which I wrote about some time ago, this program came right out and had the shrinkos state boldly and flatly to each other that

some people mistakenly consider homosexuality to be an illness which it is not. Sharon, the person in question, was in the hospital, not because she was gay, but because she had tried to commit suicide. She had been rejected by Julie at whom she had reportedly made some kind of awkward and ill-received pass.

I nearly choked on my liverwurst and matzo lunch. Could God really have so neatly and in such a timely fashion vindicated my passionate attachment to the show? For not only did the good doctors say it wasn't sick to be homosexual; they went far beyond the usual bland statements such incidents normally call for and declared that gayness was an *acceptable alternate lifestyle*. Then they went on to discuss what to do for poor Sharon whose husband simply can't cope with her recently emergent sexuality. He is threatening to take her out

of the hospital and hence beyond the reach of her well-intentioned and apparently well-informed doctors.

Now, my friends, all this gloriously liberated material has not sprung full-blown from the head of some latter-day electronic Zeus. It has been prepared for in an exceedingly careful, long-drawn-out series of encounters between Julie (super-heterosexual, loving wife, mother, lover, mistress — you name it; she's been it, is it, or will sooner or later be it) who is a sometime, somewhat Sunday painter and Sharon, a rich, mysterious, super-sophisticated, elegant, traditionally glamorous lady (once again, the word is deliberately chosen) whose portrait Julie is painting.

The legend goes that "you can always tell one." The legend also goes that you can't. Well, the minute I saw Julie and Sharon together for the first time — about a year ago, believe it or

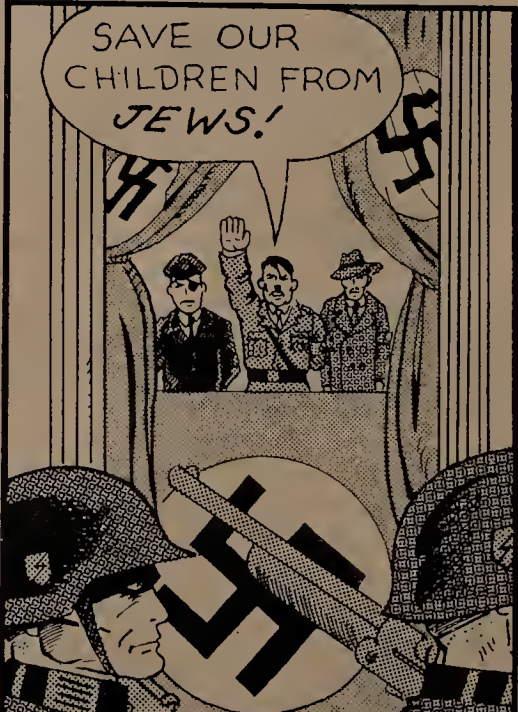
not — I had the feeling that something gay was going to develop. It was so obvious to me that I thought at first it might have been too heavy-handed. But the tension between the two women was built beautifully, sometimes ebbing, sometimes flowing, never certain, never openly revealed. Then, in the past month, during my personal dry spell, the whole affair reached a crescendo that ended in Sharon's thwarted efforts at physical intimacy with Julie who, I assure you, is no dyke.

Even Sharon's personal history has been drawn with extraordinary care — her miserable childhood, her affection for a father she could never please, and his cruel treatment of her. Her feelings of total rejection have been brought out time and again, so that it is very reasonable for her psychiatrist to say that it is rejection, not homosexuality, (Continued on page 12)

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# Boston Gay Pride Week Calendar

## Friday, June 17

10:00 P.M.—Gay Dance at Boston University, to benefit Gay Pride Week.

## Saturday, June 18

12:00 noon—Gay Pride Parade begins at Copley Square; rally follows at 1:30 at the Boston Common Bandstand. M.C. will be Jacqui Mac. Keynote Speakers will be Ann Maguire and Charlie Shively. Other speakers include Elaine Noble and Barney Frank. Rally will be followed by a musical happening.

3-9 P.M.—GCN birthday benefit at the Community Club. Entertainment by Seafire Women's Band. \$1 donation.

5:00 P.M.—Ethnic/Tribal Dance workshop, location to be announced.

## Sunday, June 19

2:00 P.M.—Afternoon Music Experience: musicians from the Gay community will share their work at Somewhere, 295 Franklin Street.

8:00 P.M.—Project Lambda Youth Forum. All are welcome. Charles Street Meetinghouse, 70 Charles Street.



Photo by Ray Hopkins

## Thursday, June 23

During the afternoon, Guerilla Theater and Street Music will be featured on Charles Street.

8:00 P.M.—Class Struggle Workshop, at Red Book, 136 River Street, Cambridge.

## Friday, June 24

9:00 P.M.—Evening of theater, at T.B.A.

10:00 P.M.—Gay Dance at Boston University, to benefit Gay Pride Week.

## Saturday, June 25

2:00-10:00 P.M.—Gay Legislation Benefit at the Fenway, with live entertainment, guest speakers, beer garden, food, raffles, etc.

8:30 P.M.—Film program, featuring "Monday Morning Pronouns," at the Charles Street Meetinghouse. \$1.50 donation to benefit Project Lambda and Women's Filmmaking.

## Monday, June 20

4:00 P.M.—Picnic and Gay Love on the Esplanade, near the Bandshell. Bring friends, food, drink, smoke, instruments, etc. Boston Advocates for Human Rights will host a Town Meeting. Contact BAHHR for details by calling 742-4811.

8:00 P.M.—Gay Men's Childcare Collective meeting at the Gay Men's Center, 718 Beacon Street.

8:00 P.M.—Dykes & Tykes meeting at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street.

## Tuesday, June 21

Gay Men's Center Forum, to be held at the Gay Men's Center at a time to be announced.

10:00 P.M.—Summer Solstice Ritual on the Esplanade by the Bandshell.

## Wednesday, June 22

6:00-10:00 P.M.—Poetry Workshop at the Cafe Gallery, at Dartmouth and Appleton Streets. Four programs in a relaxed atmosphere, with breaks for food and talk.

8:00 P.M.—Politics of Dress Workshop, at Red Book, 136 River Street, Cambridge.



For more information, contact Cha-Cha at 426-4469 weekdays between 2:00 and 6:00.

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## Gay 'Days of Our Lives'

(Continued from page 10)

that caused her suicide attempt.

I go on too long, but I am excited about this. God knows where it will lead or how it will end, but I am willing to bet that even Julie comes around to accepting Sharon and telling her it was shock, not dislike, that caused Julie to reject Sharon's overtures.

Since my lover was an astonished witness to this program, she had to take back some of her dastardly pronouncements against my favorite medium, so I may no longer have to either do without or watch surreptitiously from my closet with the antenna sticking forlornly outside the door.

And now for the serious part: how the story continues will depend, at least to some degree, I very strongly believe, on audience reaction to this daring departure from the traditional view of homosexuality as promoted in soap opera. If a number of irate housewives, ministers, businessmen on their over-long lunch hours or what-not,

send anti-gay letters, and we send no pro-gay letters, you can guess the result. Julie won't accept; husband will get Sharon away from all positive influences; Sharon may succeed in her next suicide attempt — ad infinitum. What I implore you all to do, and what I shall do as soon as I finish typing this, is write to NBC-TV, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City 10020 and praise their courage and sanity in presenting this aspect of "Days of Our Lives." Do it, damn it, do it NOW.

Never underestimate the power of television to influence opinion. This program has a tremendous and devoted following and can do us a great deal of good. The least we can do is give the networks a shove in the right direction.

An ironic little twist: At the close of the program one of the commercials was Anita Bryant selling her 100% orange juice from Florida. Whatever else it is, orange juice is also 100% fruit. See ya.



Ellie Boswell (right), the piano player who made her name at Boston's Twelve Carver, clowns with Linda Hopkins, star of the hit musical "Me and Bessie." Hopkins, whose musical version of the life of blues singer Bessie Smith continues at the Charles Playhouse through July, takes her encores at the Fan Club most nights. Boswell now plays at the Fan Club.

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the rep



# people, places and flings

By David Holland

We've been so conservative with space in the paper lately, what with the news of saddening fires (even here at home) and the voices of voters so far away and the news of familiar and important faces coming and going, I've had to spill over news from last week into this . . . For instance, last week I was going to tell you about John Mitzel, chronicler-of-the-little-people, who has just come out. But this time it's in the form of a new collection of short stories, titled "Some Short Stories

About Nasty People I Don't Like." I was going to tell you it's a wonderful delight and that Bunny LaRue gave it a rating of 79 on a scale of 32 to 98, saying, "Mitzel has a mind like a bent lens-like prism which refracts all he sees in America into its natural component criminal parts." I urge you to get a copy from **Manifest Destiny Books**, Box 57, Dorchester Center Station, Dorchester, Mass. 02124. For this set of tales, \$3.00 seems miniscule . . . By now, had I written this the week before, you would have known about the opening of the 1270's latest addition, **The Kitchen Bar**. It sounds like a one-person show at the bar and grill. So, who wants to go home and cook after a night on the town? . . . And you would have been told about the **BOS** opening June 1 with paintings by **Ross**

**Baron**. But the exhibit lasts until the 11th at the 259 Newbury gallery. I might advise a visit . . . New on the agenda for this week is a thank you I was too slow to deliver to **Suki at Chaps** for a number of things. I guess she's a part of what makes customers proud to be a **Chapette** . . . And also new and upcoming is an entertaining freebie at the **Cat's** lair, the **Boston Repertory** at One Boylston Place. They're celebrating their birthday with us all by hosting four free performances from children's mime to music to a performance of "P.S." It's happening all day beginning at 1 p.m., June 12 at the Rep . . . Other news for this week to be squeezed in include a report from a traveling minstrel returning from a visit with **Lyn Rosen** in **Philadelphia**. The old town is learning some new tricks and the latest is a private club (you know, disco, cheese and fruit drinks) called **The 2nd Story**. It's in a renovated cathedral that has maintained the right accoutrements. Like

stained glass and thirty foot ceilings. I wonder if **D.C. LaRue** christened the idea? . . . The "I remember" places have done their own spring cleaning, such as **Steps**. Why, I hear you'd hardly recognize the old face . . . As for near-current happenings outside our little town, the well known designer/illustrator of the twenties and thirties, **Erte**, had a gala tribute paid him in New York. The Rich and Famous celebration included a showing of a contemporary designer's fabric-interpretations of the man's work. Other honors were paid as well to this keystone of the deco years . . . A new **Fassbinder** ("Fox and His Friends") film has opened in New York, as well. It's a Vampirish tale of a man loving young boys' blood as only Fassbinder can tell. When it arrives, you'll recognize the name: "**Tenderness of the Wolves**" . . . The last note of far-away must be delivering the news of the world's glitziest, name-dropping disco, **Studio 54**, being discovered without a liquor license. It's fine to operate without one if grapefruit is the strongest beverage but at the 54 it wasn't . . . Now if you only knew what I had to save for next week.

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rides

GM driving to L.A. June 17. Need rider to share driving and expenses. Call 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 547-4693, Richard. Leave message. (50)

organizations

S.A.B.U.  
Unestablished, Disestablished Artists Interested In Organizing A Group To Paint And Sell Their Work Please Write R.E.M. Originals, P.O. Box 1087, Port., N.H. 03801. (52)

LUTHERANS  
ALC, LCA AND-Mo. Uniting for justice, love, understanding in our church. Lutherans Concerned (for gay people), Box B-19114A, Los Angeles, CA 90019.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WORCESTER, church service at 6 Institute Road, 2 p.m. Sundays. Rev. Jos. H. Gilbert, pastor, 756-0730. The 3rd year begins.

GAY LEGAL ENCOUNTER & EXCHANGE GLEE is a legal exchange recently formed to provide free legal assistance to the gay prisoners incarcerated in all federal and state facilities. GLEE is especially geared to serve the needs and deal with the problems of the gay prisoner. Some of the services available are research, assistance with the preparation of suits and motions, filing of class action suits (especially 1983) and in some cases non-appointed court representation. For more info on these and other free services, write to: Jerry Dighera, P.O. Box 2, Lansing, Kansas 66043.

BOSTON GAY CATHOLICS  
Dignity Boston sponsors EXODUS MASS, a liturgy for gay and concerned Catholics every Sunday at St. Clements, 1105 Boylston St., Boston, at 5:30 p.m. For info contact Dignity/Boston, 102 Charles St., Box 172, Boston, MA 02114 or call 739-1091. (5/35)

SUPPORT LESBIAN MOTHERS  
Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund, 2446 Lorentz Place, W. Seattle, WA 98109. (206) 282-5798. Membership \$5.00.

GAY ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE NJ  
—Men and women — Militantly gay — militantly proud — Join us at 176 Kansas St., Hackensack, NJ, every Fri. at 9 P.M. Political action caucus Tuesdays at 8:30 P.M. (201 343-6402.

JOIN DIGNITY  
Gay and Catholic? Find out more from Dignity, a national organization of gay and concerned Catholics. Write Dignity, 755 Boylston St., Rm. 413, Boston, MA 02116.

Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, services each Sunday at 7:00 p.m. (hymn sing 6:45), 131 Cambridge St., Boston (Old West Church). Edward T. Hougen, pastor. Office 523-7664. All persons are welcome.

NGTF NEEDS YOU  
Join with the largest, fastest growing gay civil rights group in the country! The National Gay Task Force works with a professional staff on media representation, national legislation, information clearinghouse, religious reforms, corporate non-discrimination statements, more! Help support our work — join now. \$15 membership (\$5 limited income) includes Newsletter. NGTF, 80 Fifth Ave., Rm. 506, New York, NY 10011.

COMING TO S.F. BAY AREA?  
Stanford Gay People's Union welcomes you. Social hours, rap group, peer counseling, programs, parties. Phone (415) 497-1488; mail to Box 8265, Stanford, CA 94305.

CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING  
Men, 40 and older, have problems different from young Gay Activists. Small discussion group forming NYC. Call (212) 242-8112 or write Burdick, Apt. 1C, 270 W. 25th St., NYC, NY 10001.

Necessarily low-key activists trying to organize in Neanderthal Manchester, NH. Write GCN Box 782. (49 +)

In New Jersey, the Gay Activist Alliance/Morris County meets every Monday at 8:30 p.m. using facilities of Unitarian Fellowship, Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown, NJ. Info: (201) 884-0653, 347-6234.

publications

OHIO GAY JOURNAL  
Subscribe to High Gear, Cleveland based, non-sexist monthly journal for gay women and men. Features Ohio news, historical-cultural features, politics, running satire, music, et. al. Send \$5 for 1 yr. sub. or 50¢ for sample copy to High Gear P.O. Box 6177, Cleveland, Ohio, 44101.

LAVENDER SOUTH  
Discover the realities of the Southern gay experience. Read *The Barb*, The News Monthly for Southern Gays. Regional and National News: Lifestyle Commentary, Entertainment Columns. Subscriptions per year: \$5/3rd class; \$8/1st class. Sample 50¢. (All copies mailed in anonymous envelope.) Classifieds 10¢/word. Master Charge, Euro Card and Access accepted. The South's largest gay publication: *The Barb*. Box 7922-B, Atlanta, GA 30309.

GAY SCENE — The monthly picture entertainment newspaper. Features Gay Movement news, Articles, Reviews, Personals, Nude Centerfold, plus more interesting features. \$8 for 12 issues. Send \$1 for sample copy. Mailed in plain brown envelope. REGIMENT, C/O GALLERY THREE ENT., BOX 247, GRAND CENTRAL STA., NYC, NY 10017.

THEY WILL KNOW ME BY MY TEETH  
Magaera Press proudly announces publication of stories & poems of Lesbian struggle, survival, and celebration by Elana Dykewoman (author of "Riverfinger Woman"). For Women Only from Old Lady Blue Jeans, P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01060. \$3.50 plus postage (25¢).

CALIFORNIA SCENE. 7th year. Sample copy \$1.25, ten copies \$10. Articles of general interest and news of all California

plus photos, theatre, movie reviews and book reviews. Box 26032, Los Angeles, CA 90026.

AGAINST THE WALL  
A magazine of self-liberation and voluntary alternatives. Published 10 times per year. Sample, 75¢ ppd. Box 444, Westfield, NJ 07091. (52)

KEEP UP WITH THE SOUTH  
Subscribe to the *Free Press*, a Southern news/magazine published every two weeks in Charlotte, NC comprised of news, features and regular columns of interest to everyone. Two year subscription (52 issues) \$10.00; one year subscription (26 issues) \$6.00; sample copy 25¢. Please respond to *Free Press*, Box 2550, Charlotte NC 28234. Thank yawl.

WHAT'S NEW IN SAN FRANCISCO?  
Read the *SENTINEL* and find out News, features, opinion columns. Politics, the arts, entertainment, sports, contests, classifieds. San Francisco's NEWSpaper. Biweekly. \$15/year. *SENTINEL*, 12 Sharon St., S.F., CA 94114 (c)

LESBIAN CONNECTION  
A free nationwide forum of news and ideas by, for and about lesbians (donations are always welcome). For a subscription simply send your name, address and zip to: Ambitious Amazons, Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48823.

FOCUS  
A monthly journal of fiction, articles, poetry, book reviews, etc. by, for and about gay women. 1 year subscription (12 issues) \$6. Sample copy 60¢. Always sent in plain envelope. Focus, Box GCN, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. (c)

"The Wishing Well"; a national publication with emphasis on helping gay/feminists reach others with similar life styles. Code no's used to insure confidentiality. P.O. Box 1711, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

GAIA'S GUIDE-1977. FOR GAY WOMEN  
Thoroughly detailed discreet pocket size international bar/club guide and complete directory. This fourth edition: All U.S.A. plus 40 other countries. 3000 listings. Centers, switchboards, organizations and publications plus much, much more. \$5.00 only from: GAIA'S GUIDE, 115 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. Also on sale at: NEW WORDS, 186 Hampshire St. in Cambridge; ISIS, 146 Commercial St. in Provincetown, & at THE PEOPLE'S NEWS-STAND, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

GAY MEN'S HEALTH GUIDE  
Comprehensive 28 page guide to gay men's special health problems: VD, scabies, warts, etc. Published by Gay Men's Health Project of NYC for gay men. 75 cents per copy. GMHP, 74 Grove St., 2RW, NY, NY 10014. (5/3)

BOSTON BAR GUIDE

BAMBOO LOUNGE  
30 Avery St.  
Food, Mixed.  
BOSTON EAGLE  
88 Queensbury St. 247-9586  
Leather, Men, Thurs. Club Nite, Sunday Brunch 3PM, Movies Mon. & Tues. 8PM.  
CARNIVAL LOUNGE  
39 Boylston St. 338-7159  
Dancing, Mixed.  
CHAMPAGNE LOUNGE  
227 Tremont St. 338-8385  
Dancing, Men.  
CHAPS  
27 Huntington Ave. 266-7778  
Food, Men.  
CITADEL  
22 Avery St. 482-9040  
Dancing, Men.  
CLUB 76  
76 Battery March St. 542-3377  
Food, Mixed (Mostly Men).

COMMUNITY CLUB  
252 Boylston St. 247-9308  
Noon to 2AM, 7 days a week.  
Dancing, Games, Food.  
HARRY'S PLACE  
45 Essex St.  
Dancing, Men.  
HERBIE'S RAMROD ROOM  
12 Carver St. 338-8577  
Leather, Men, Sunday Brunch 7PM, Thurs. Viking Club Nite.  
NAPOLEON CLUB  
52 Piedmont St. 338-7547  
Dancing Fri., Sat., Sun., Men.  
PLAYLAND  
21 Essex St.  
Men (Some Women).  
119 MERRIMAC  
119 Merrimac St. 523-8960  
Dancing, Men, Tues.-Thurs. Buffet 9-11PM  
RAINBOW ROOM  
15 Lansdowne St.  
Disco Dancing, Men.

SAINTS  
(Call 354-8807) Women.  
JOMEWHERE  
295 Franklin St. 423-7730  
Disco Dancing, Mixed, Sunday Brunch 12-2PM  
SPORTER'S CAFE  
228 Cambridge St.  
Food, Men, Saturday Brunch 5PM, Movies Mon. 3PM, Sunday Brunch 3PM.  
STYX  
20 Blagden St. 247-3910  
Disco Dancing, Men.  
THE SHED  
272 Huntington Ave.  
Leather, Men, Sunday Brunch 4PM.  
TOGETHER  
110 Boylston St.  
Disco Dancing, Mixed  
1270  
1270 Boylston St. 261-1257  
Disco Dancing, Mixed (Mostly Men).  
TWELVE CARVER  
12 Carver St.  
Men.

Quick Gay Guide

BOSTON AREA (Area Code 617)  
Access (Cambridge Hotline) 661-3900  
Am Tikva 262-0179  
Boston Advocates for Human Rights, 73 Tremont St., rm 224, Box 2232, Boston 02107 742-4811  
Cambridge Gay Political Caucus, P.O. Box 218, E. Cambridge 02141 492-3433  
Cambridge Women's Center 354-8807  
Charles Street Meetinghouse 523-1081  
Civil Liberties Union of Mass. 742-8020  
Closet Space (WCAS 740m AM) 492-6540  
Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge 02138 661-3633  
Dignity, 102 Charles St., Box 172, Boston 02114 739-1091  
Elaine Noble (Rep.) 727-2584  
Evangelicals Concerned 894-3970  
Fag Rag 536-9826  
Fenway Community Health Center 267-7573  
Fengay, c/o Tom Nylund 267-1066  
Fort Hill Faggots for Freedom 442-1739, 440-8551 or 427-1893  
Framingham Unicorn Society, P.O. Box 163, Framingham 01701 877-8550  
Gay Academic Union of New England, P.O. Box 212, Boston 02101 266-2069  
Gay AlAnon, South Shore 843-5300  
Gay Community Chapter (Human Achievement Foundation) 277-2484  
Gay Community News 426-4469  
Gay Hotline (3-12 pm, Mon.-Fri.) 426-9371  
Gay Legislation '77, P.O. Box 8841, JFK Station, Boston 02114 742-4811  
Gay Men's Centre, 718 Beacon St. 247-7312  
Gay Nurses' Alliance-East, P.O. Box 530, Back Bay Annex, Boston 02117 287-1900 (ext. 2396)  
Gay Professional Women's Ass'n, Box 308, Boston Univ. Sta., Boston 02215  
Gay Recreational Activities Committee, (GRAC), c/o GCN Box 8000  
Gay Speakers Bureau, P.O. Box 2232, Boston 02107 354-0133  
Gay Way Radio (WBUR, 90.9 FM) 353-2790  
Gay Youth Advocates, 70 Charles St. 227-8587  
Gender Identity Service 864-8181  
Good Gay Poets 536-9826  
Harvard-Radcliffe Gay Student Assn. 498-2111  
Homophile Community Health Service 542-5188  
Integrity, P.O. Box 2582, Boston 02208 262-3057  
Lesbian Liberation, c/o Women's Ctr. 354-8807

Massachusetts Feminist Federal Credit Union, 186 1/2 Hampshire St., Cambridge 661-0450  
Metropolitan Community Church 523-7664  
MIT Homophile League, rm 50-306 253-5440  
National Lawyers Guild, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge 02139 661-8898 or 661-6358  
National Organization for Women 267-6160  
New Words Bookstore 876-5310  
Northeastern Gay Student Org., c/o Student Activities Office, 255 Eli Ctr. Older and Other Gays, c/o GCN, Box 1500, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108.  
Outreach Foundation for crossdressers, transgenderists and gender dysthorics, 102 Charles St., Suite 433, Boston 02114  
Project Lambda 523-0368  
Project Place 267-9150  
Sexual Health Centers of N.E., Inc., 739 Boylston St., Boston 02116 266-3444  
Fr. Paul Shanley (Exodus Center) 333-0146  
Tufts Gay Community, c/o Student Activities Office, Medford 02155  
Unitarian Universalist Office of Gay Concerns, 25 Beacon St., Boston 02108 742-2100  
Women's Alcoholism Program, 1348 Cambridge St., Cambridge 02139 661-1316  
Women's Community Health in Cambridge 547-2302  
EASTERN MASS. (Area Code 617)  
Everywoman's Center, Box 949, 14 Center St., Provincetown 02657 (4-6 pm) 756-0730  
MCC/Worcester 999-1570  
New Bedford Women's Clinic 487-0387  
Provincetown 24-Hour Drop-In Center 471-7100  
Survival Crisis Line

WESTERN MASS. (Area Code 413)  
Berkshire Community Gay Coalition, Box 493, Pittsfield 01201 442-7033  
Common Women Club, 78 Masonic St., Northampton 01060 584-4580  
Everywoman's Center, Amherst 545-0883  
Gaybreak Radio (WMUA-FM, 91.9) 545-2876  
Gay Women's Caucus, Amherst 545-3438  
Lesbian Union, 9th floor, Campus Center, UMass, Amherst 01003  
Southwest Women's Center 545-0626  
Springfield Gay Alliance 732-9315  
Together, Box 427, Forest Park Sta., Springfield 01108  
Valley Women's Center, Northampton 586-2011

CONNECTICUT (Area Code 203)  
"Come Out Tonight," Box WYBC/Yale Station, New Haven 06520.  
CT Gay Task Force, P.O. Box 514, Hartford 06101 522-5575  
East Conn. Gay Alliance, NorwIch 889-7530  
George W. Henry Foundation, Hartford 522-2646  
Gay Alliance at Yale, Box 2031, Yale Station, New Haven 06520 436-8945

Gay phone counseling (eves.), New Haven 436-8945  
Gay Switchboard 522-5575  
Hartford Gay Counseling 522-5575, 232-5110  
Institute of Social Ethics/National Gay Archives, 1 Gold St., Suite 22B, Hartford 06103 547-1281  
Kalos/Gay Liberation, Hartford 568-2656  
MCC/Hartford 232-5110, 522-5575  
New Haven Lesbian Rap, 148 Orange St., New Haven 436-0272  
The Church of the Eternal Flame Universal 527-2656  
UConn Gay Alliance, 211 Student Union, U of CT, Storrs 06268  
Yalesbians, Box 2031, Yale Station, New Haven 06520 436-8945

RHODE ISLAND (Area Code 401)  
Brown University Gay Lib, 305 Faunce House, rm 510, Providence 863-3062  
Dignity/Providence, Box 2231, Pawtucket 02861  
Gay Help Line 751-3322  
Gay Community Services of R.I., 55 Eddy St., rm 306  
Gay Women of Brown, c/o Sarah Doyle Women's Center, 186 Meeting St., Providence 02912 863-2189  
Integrity, Box 71, Annex Sta., Providence 02801  
MCC/Providence, 134 Mathewson St. 751-6023  
MCC Innovative Ministry (terminally ill, aged and handicapped), Rev. Michael Nordstrum 272-8482  
Providence Gay Group of AA 231-5853

MAINE (Area Code 207)  
CMGA, Box 2242, Augusta 04330  
Confidential Drug and Alcohol Rap Group, Box 4542, Portland 04112  
Gay People's Alliance, 92 Bedford St. 773-2981  
University of Maine, Portland 04103 ext. 535  
Growing...Sober and Gay, Box 893, Waterville 04901  
Maine Freewoman's Herald, 193 Middle St., 3rd floor, Portland 04111 774-6071  
Maine Gay Task Force, Box 4542, Portland 04112 773-5530  
Maine Lesbian Feminists, Box 125, Belfast 04915  
Mainly Gay, Box 4542, Portland 04112 773-5530  
The Wilde-Steln Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono 04473

NEW HAMPSHIRE (Area Code 603)  
MCC-Extension, 292 State St., Portsmouth 03801 382-4678  
Nashua Area Gays 673-5315  
Northwood Women's Group, G. Ball, Box 273, RFD 1, Manchester 03104

VERMONT (Area Code 802)  
Counseling-Support for Gay Women, c/o Susan Katz, South VT Women's Health



Center, 187 N. Main St., Rutland, VT 05701 775-1518  
Gay Student Union, Univ. of VT, Burlington 05401, M-F, 7-9 pm 656-4173  
Women's Center, 182 Main St., Burlington 863-1236

NEW YORK (CITY) (Area Code 212)  
Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14th St., NYC 10014 242-6616  
Gay People at Columbia, Columbia U., NYC 10027 280-2574  
Gay Switchboard 924-4036  
The Glines, 260 W. Broadway 925-2619  
Lambda Legal Defense, P.O. Box 5448, Grand Central Station, NYC 10017 758-1905  
Lesbian Switchboard 741-2610  
National Coalition of Gay Activists, P.O. Box A-711, Grand Central Sta., NYC 10017  
National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Ave., Rm. 506, NYC 741-1010  
Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop, 15 Christopher St. 255-8097  
West Side Discussion Group, 37 Ninth Ave., NYC 675-0143

NEW YORK (STATE)  
Dignity/Integrity/Rochester, 42 Tyler House, 17 South Fitzhugh St., Rochester, 14614 (716) 232-6521  
Gay Alliance of The Genesee Valley, Inc. 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester (716) 244-8640 14607 or 244-9030  
Gay Brotherhood of Rochester, 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester 14607 (716) 244-8640  
Gay Liberation Front, U. of R., Wilson Commons, Rochester 14627 (716) 275-6181  
Gayphone (Mon-Sat 7-11) 423-3599  
Hamilton-Kirkland Gay Alliance, Box 80, Hamilton College, Clinton 13323  
Lesbian Resource Center (formerly GROW), 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester 14607 (716) 244-9030  
Stonewall Society, Poughkeepsie (914) 471-8885



# calendar

## june

### 7 tues

Cambridge, MA — DOB women's discussion, 15 Mass. Ave., Old Camb. Baptist Church, 7:30pm, refreshments.

Boston — "Homosexuality Goes to School" will be broadcast on 'GBH Radio, 89.7 FM, 4 pm.

Boston — Gay Men's Center pot-luck supper and community meeting, 7:30pm, 718 Beacon St.

Allston, MA — Women's folk dancing, learn or teach, 7:30pm, Allston Congregational Church, Quint Ave., Brighton; info call Laura, 623-1462.

NYC — West Side Discussion Group 37 Ninth Ave. at 14th St., "How the Nazis Butchered Gay People" by Richard Plant, \$2 donation.

### 8 wed

Cambridge, MA — Evangelicals Concerned meet at 8pm, 872 Mass. Ave., apt. 702, discuss works of C. S. Lewis.

NYC — West Side Discussion Group for women only meets at 37 Ninth Ave. at 14th St.; \$2 donation.

### 9 thur

Boston — Vikings Club Night at Herbie's, 12 Carver; Cream Pie Night.

### 10 fri

Boston — Tonight, after the bars, stop by the Gay Men's Center for an after hours Coffee House, 2-4am, 718 Beacon St.

Boston — Gay People in Alcoholics Anonymous hold weekend of events, 5:30 registration at Our Lady of Victories Church on Isabella St. in Bay Village; 8:30 Alcoholics Together 12 Step Meeting in Our Lady of Victories Senior Lounge; info call 723-1629, 965-0119, 353-0089, 523-0191.

NYC — Andrea Dworkin reads from her works at Loeb Student Center, Auditorium, NYU, LaGuardia Pl. at Washington Sq. South, 8pm; \$2.50 donation.

### 11 sat

Boston — Welcome the Rhino Disco Dance at Gay Men's Center, 718 Beacon St., 9-1.

Boston — Gay People in AA weekend of events starts at 8:30, coffee and registration at Marian Hall, Emmanuel College, the Fenway; workshops until 5:30; dance at 9pm at Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St.

### 12 sun

Boston — Gay People in AA host Gay Today Beginners meeting, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., 1:30pm.

Cambridge, MA — Boston area Women Artist's Collective forming, monthly meeting to share ideas; please bring sample of art work to first meeting, 5pm, 21 Bay St. (off Mass. Ave.).

Boston — Gay Men's Center general meeting and pot-luck, 3pm, 718 Beacon St.

Cambridge, MA — Gay Academic Union of New England meets in Phillips Brooks House, second floor, northwest corner of Harvard Yard, 2-4pm. Paula Bennett will speak on the poetry of Emily Dickinson. A motion will be made to dissolve GAU/NE.

### 14 tues

NYC — West Side Discussion Group topic is "Gays Around the World," 8pm, 37 Ninth Ave. at 14th St.; \$2 donation.

## SUBSCRIBE

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